



DACA Elimination Action Timeline

- June 2012: The Obama Administration creates the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program by executive action. The program offers deferred deportation, work permits, Social Security cards, and drivers' licenses to eligible individuals.
- September 5, 2017: President Trump announces that he is ending the DACA program by Executive Order. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) halts review of any new DACA applications. Current DACA recipients whose statuses are set to expire between Sept. 5, 2017 and March 5, 2018 are given thirty days from the announcement to apply for one more 2-year renewal of their DACA status. Individuals whose status is set to expire after March 5, 2018 will not be granted any additional renewals.

2018

- January 9, 2018: An injunction is issued by a Federal District Court in San Francisco, CA that requires the Trump Administration to keep DACA in place, pending further litigation. The University of California System is a party to the case.
- January 16, 2018: The Department of Justice announces it will simultaneously appeal the San Francisco Court's decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- February 13, 2018: A second nationwide injunction requiring the Trump Administration to keep DACA in place, pending further litigation, is issued by a Federal District Court in Brooklyn, NY.
- February 14, 2018: DHS confirms that it will comply with the injunctions and continue accepting requests to renew DACA protections for those individuals who currently have DACA status; new DACA applications will still not be considered.
- February 26, 2018: The U.S. Supreme Court declines to review the DACA case stemming from the San Francisco Federal District Court's ruling until it's made its way through the lower appellate courts.

- April 24, 2018: A third nationwide injunction requiring the Trump Administration to keep DACA in place is issued by Judge John Bates out of the Washington, D.C. Federal District Court. This ruling goes further than the previous two and requires DHS to offer a firmer legal basis for the program's elimination within ninety days. If this requirement is not met, the ruling requires DHS to begin reviewing new DACA applications as well as renewals. Princeton University is a party to the case.
- May 2018: Seven state attorneys general file suit against the Trump administration, challenging the constitutionality of the DACA program. The lawsuit alleges that DACA's creation under the Obama administration overstepped the authority of the executive branch and should be rescinded immediately, although it does present the possibility for a two-year phase-out elimination of the program as a compromise. The effort, led by the state of Texas, is made up of attorneys general from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina, and West Virginia.
- August 2018: After the conclusion of the ninety-day window, in which DHS could offer a firmer legal basis for DACA's elimination, DC District Court Judge John Bates determined that DHS had failed to produce better reasoning. However, Judge Bates decided, in light of other ongoing DACA litigation, to temporarily halt implementation of the portion of his ruling that would have required DHS to resume processing new DACA applications. In keeping with earlier federal court guidance, DHS will continue processing renewal applications for existing DACA recipients.
- November 8, 2018: The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upholds the San Francisco Federal District Court's decision preventing the Trump Administration from eliminating DACA. The decision states that while the Trump Administration could theoretically eliminate DACA via an Executive Order (EO), the reasoning behind its EO attempting to do so was flawed because it relied on the incorrect assumption that the Obama Administration did not have the power to create the DACA program in the first place. From a functional standpoint, DHS will continue processing DACA renewals, but will not process any new DACA program applications. From a procedural standpoint, this decision moves the fight over DACA one step closer to Supreme Court intervention to ultimately settle the issue.

2019

- July 2019: Legal action over the Trump Administration's decision to end the DACA program has progressed through several different courts in jurisdictions around the country. The Supreme Court has agreed to consolidate several of those cases and placed it on its docket to be heard in the Court's Fall 2019 term. A decision in that case should be issued by June 2020. Legislatively, several different bills to address the status of Dreamers has been introduced, including the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019, but Congressional gridlock on the issue due to a split in power between Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate respectively has prevented substantive movement on any legislation.

- October 4, 2019: NACUBO and 43 other higher education organizations submit a joint amicus [brief](#) to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the case brought against the Department of Homeland Security by the University of California system over its rescission of the DACA program. The brief argues that DACA's rescission will inflict harms not just on impacted DACA recipients, but also on colleges, universities, and the country as a whole.

2020

- On June 18, 2020 the Supreme Court [ruled](#) that the framework of the Trump Administration's attempt to eliminate the DACA program failed to heed procedural requirements dictated by the Administrative Procedure Act. The decision, while protecting Dreamers in the short term, does not preclude future attempts to eliminate DACA.
- On July 17, 2020 a federal district court judge [ordered](#) the Department of Homeland Security to begin processing new DACA applications in light of the Supreme Court's ruling. The Department had not processed any new DACA applications since President Trump announced his intention to end the program in fall 2017.
- On July 28, 2020 the Department of Homeland Security [announced](#) that not only would it not begin processing new DACA applications, agency personnel were ordered to "reject all pending and future initial requests for DACA, to reject all pending and future applications for advance parole absent exceptional circumstances, and to shorten the DACA renewal period to one year." The Trump Administration has indicated that it will continue its efforts to eliminate the program entirely.